

Care-charming sleep

Poem by John Fletcher

Robert Johnson

The musical score is written in a lute tablature system with a vocal line. The tablature uses letters 'a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'e', 'f', 'g' on a six-line staff to represent fret positions. The vocal line is written on a five-line staff with a treble clef and a common time signature. The lyrics are written below the tablature. The score is divided into systems, with measure numbers 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 marked. Rehearsal marks BII and BIII are placed above the tablature. The piece concludes with a double bar line and the number 6.

"The Tragedy of Valentinian" (1614) deals with the vengeance of Maximus, a general under Valentinian III, for the dishonour of his wife by the emperor, and her suicide. A dense web of intrigue and treachery results in the slow death of Valentinian by poisoning (to the accompaniment of the well-known lyric 'Care charming sleep'), and the subsequent death of Maximus, poisoned, again to musical accompaniment, by the widowed empress Eudoxa, as he is inaugurated as Valentinian's successor.